World Bank Warning Against Poverty

1000. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has warned that India's battle against poverty would slip badly if investment in the current decade remains 'squeezed' by low domestic savings rate;

(b) whether the World Bank's development report for 1990 was released in July;

(c) whether Government have examined the report; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no explicit or implicit warning to India in the Report. The Report projects a real GDP per capita growth rate of 3.4 per cent for the 90s for India. This is more than what has been projected for the other groups of countries (including the industrial countries) except for East Asia and China where the forecast is for 5 puls GDP per capita growth rate.

(c) and (d) Observations made in the Report are only suggestions by the authors of the Report. Development policies in India are framed after taking into account our priorities. No specific action/step is contemplated on the suggestions in the Report.

Trade Deficit

1001. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been able to reduce massive trade deficit by utilising the remittances sent home by workers in West Asia and Gulf;

(b) whether a study was undertaken by the International Labour Organisation in this regard;

(c) what is the position of trade deficit in 1990-91; and

(d) to what extent it will be reduced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Remittances from Indian workers in West Asia and Gulf have constituted significant positive inflow for the current account of India's balance of payments and helped to offset the deficit in her trade account.

(b) The International Labour organisation has conducted a study on remittance flows from West Asia and the Gulf region.

(c) and (d) For 1990-91, trade data are available only for the first quarter. The trade deficit during the first quarter on 1990—91 according to the data released by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, amounted to Rs 1877 crores.

Duty Charged on Import of PTFE

1002. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import duty on Poly tetra flura ethylene (PTFE) finished products such as tapes, cable nozzles, circuit breakers etc. is lower than that on raw material;

(b) whether it is not contrary to the basic policy of Government stipulating that duty on raw material should be lower than that of finished products; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to review the whole aspects

of duty on PTFE in order to bring it lower than the finished products and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Though, in general, the policy is to levy higher import duty on finished products as compared to the raw materials, there are other factors also like the need to give protection to the indigenous manufacturers which are taken into consideration while fixing the import duty levels.

At present, there are no proposals for changing the import duty structure on PTFE.

Income-tax cases Pending in the High Courts and Supreme Courts

1003. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the FINANCE MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases pertaining to income-tax dues which arepending in the High Courts and the Supreme Court as on the 31st July, 1990;

(b) what is the amount of money involved;

(c) since when these cases are pending; and

(d) what steps are being taken to expedite settlement of the cases and to recover the dues?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of House.

Complaints Against Regional Iron and Steel Controller; Bombay

1004. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received a number of complaints against the Regional Iron and Steel Controller, Bombay;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Regional Controller has since completed his three years term and is on an extension; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not transferring him to some other station when he has already completed three years in Bombay?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) A few complaints which appear to be pseudonymous were received against the Regional Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel in Bombay recently, during July, 1990.

(b) The Regional Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel, Bombay has completed 4 years of deputation period with Government of India on 31-5-90. He has been granted extension of deputation period for one more year, i.e. upto 31-5-91.

(c) According to the existing Rules, IAS officers on Central deputation are eligible for appointment to the post of the level of Director after they complete 14 years of Service and are granted the selection grade in ttheir respective cadres. Since the Regional Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel, Bombay fulfilled the above conditions, the period of Central Deputation in his case was extended by one more year, i.e. upto 31.5.1991.

Disqualification for adopting corrupt pratice in elections

1005. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for stringent legal